

October Building Permits Already Pass September Total ASK BIG PARKS FOR THIS DISTRICT Fire Prevention Program Draws Praise of Officials

MEN STAGE SPLENDID EVENTS

Parade, Demonstration, Burlesque Are Witnessed by Big Crowd.

UNDERWRITER MEN HERE Program Elicits Much Praise for Work of Local Volunteers

Torrance took a lesson in fire prevention last Saturday, saw concrete evidence of the city's fire-fighting apparatus and personnel, and enjoyed a burlesque.

The events, which drew out thousands of spectators, were put on by the Torrance Volunteer Fire Department. Every phase of the program, from the parade in the early afternoon until the close of the lecture at night, was a success.

The parade, with its exhibition of old and new fire apparatus and a number of instructive floats and with Troop No. 3 of the Boy Scouts wearing fire prevention slogans on their arms, was one of the best pageants ever held in Torrance.

Prizes for floats were awarded as follows: Mineral Wool Products Company, first prize of \$25; Torrance Brick Company, second prize of \$15; William Mullin, third prize of \$10; Buster Howe, fourth prize of \$5.

After the parade the firemen demonstrated the results of their constant practice by a complete exhibition of hose running, ladder running and life saving, on El Prado.

A large crowd watched the men, and many commendatory remarks were heard on all sides.

Al Bartlett and Harry McManus staged their Dingville fire-fighting show in the evening in front of the High School Auditorium. A terrific fire called the gallant men into action and, as Al Bartlett says, the boys deserve a lot of credit for saving the lot.

After the Dingville burlesque Capt. Lathrop of the fire prevention bureau of Los Angeles County delivered an illustrated lecture in the auditorium. While the attendance was not what had been expected, those present were delighted with the address.

Officials of the fire underwriters' organization praised the Torrance men for the program and expressed surprise that a city of the size of Torrance should be so far ahead of other communities in apparatus and in training of a volunteer department.

The firemen have requested The Herald to publish on their behalf an expression of thanks for every individual and firm and institution who co-operated with the department to make the program a success.

AUXILIARY MEETING The regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will be held Tuesday evening, Oct. 19, at the Legion clubhouse. All members are requested to be present, and a hearty invitation to attend is offered to women who are eligible to membership.

Sargent Hardware and Pabco Paint. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

OIL BRINGS GREAT RICHES, BUT GRANDMA WILL HAVE NO HIRED HELP AROUND HOUSE

The sudden riches that oil brought have made little change in the life of "Granny" Crowe, 67-year-old woman who has a little place near Owensboro, Ky. She still does her own housework, wears gingham dresses, refuses to ride in an automobile or travel outside of her county.



Mrs. Lucinda Crowe, her daughter, Mrs. Ed Bickett, and the old homestead that they bought by plowing fields. They own 14 oil wells now.

She doesn't do the plowing any more. But probably this is because there is no longer any plowing to be done. Eleven oil derricks are scattered over her land, pumping up the "black gold" that has brought her wealth.

Two years ago Mrs. Lucinda Crowe had practically nothing. She was born on the farm from which her rich income is now flowing. She married, had seven children, and 20 years ago was left a widow.

Boys Left The rocky, barren land yielded a poor living when there were the six boys to work it. But they married and left home, leaving "Granny" Crowe and her daughter Clara to make their own way.

But they were discouraged not at all. In fact, they decided to buy up the interests of the other six heirs so that the 15 acres of hills and underbrush would be all their own. There was only one way to do it, and that was to plow and sow and market their produce themselves. For years they worked the few little spots where cultivation was possible. "Granny" held the plow and Clara led the recalcitrant and emaciated mule.

Land Worn Out Finally, the little bank account had grown to \$600, and with this they bought up all of the other interests in the farm. Later Clara married Ed Bickett.

By this time the land was productive but little, no matter how hard

brought in a 100-barrel producer. Each month there comes a check from the pipe-line company for \$1000. It is divided by Mrs. Crowe into nine equal parts. To the six sons who married and left her, she gave three. It is she who kept what rightfully is hers "Granny" would be rich. But she would rather give it away than buy "these dangerous automobiles" or "high-falutin' clothes."

Strangers came one day, looked over the land, examined the rocks that had made existence so difficult for the family. Royalty papers were signed and drilling was started for oil.

That was in November, 1924. Recently the eleventh well was

forced many middle western banks to close their doors. About three months ago, at the earnest solicitation of the former York people in Torrance, Mr. Nelson made a trip to California and surveyed banking and economic conditions in Torrance. He was struck with the future possibilities of Torrance and regarded it as one of the most promising young cities on the coast.

So favorable were his impressions of this city that he readily accepted the opportunity to affiliate himself with the First National Bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and family are residing at Post and Arlington avenues in the former home of Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Lancaster.

E. C. Nelson, New Cashier of First National, Sees Bright Future Here

E. C. Nelson, new cashier of the First National Bank of Torrance, arrived here Monday with Mrs. Nelson and his two children and will take up his duties with the Torrance institution Friday.

Mr. Nelson brings to the First National a wealth of experience in the banking business. Bank examiner of Minnesota, he went to York, Neb., five years ago as cashier of the City National Bank at a period of severe depression that made banking a hazardous enterprise throughout the entire Mississippi Valley.

During those trying days in Nebraska, banking Mr. Nelson managed the affairs of the York institution with signal success, overcoming handicaps that

forced many middle western banks to close their doors. About three months ago, at the earnest solicitation of the former York people in Torrance, Mr. Nelson made a trip to California and surveyed banking and economic conditions in Torrance. He was struck with the future possibilities of Torrance and regarded it as one of the most promising young cities on the coast.

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Tolson Buys Palmer Interest In Filling Station and Truck Tires; Fred Keeps Pneumatic Agencies

Announcement is made today that H. M. Tolson has purchased the interest of Fred Palmer in the co-partnership of Palmer and Fix. The purchase affects only Mr. Palmer's interest in the two filling stations and the truck tire business. Mr. Palmer remains sole proprietor of the pneumatic tire agencies.

The filling station and truck tire business will be operated under the name of Tolson & Fix. Mr. Palmer is distributor in the harbor district for Kelly-Springfield and Brunswick tires. His territory includes San Pedro, Wilmington, Torrance, and Lomita.

NEW AUCTION BRIDGE SERIES

Because of the widespread interest in auction bridge, this paper will publish a series of 36 lessons, beginning Oct. 21. These lessons are prepared by Wynne Ferguson of New York, widely known writer and lecturer on auction bridge. Because of his ability as a bridge player Mr. Ferguson looks part in the radio auction bridge games that were broadcast by 25 leading radio stations in America last year, and again will appear in one of the games to be broadcast this winter. Each article by Mr. Ferguson will be complete and will illustrate salient points in the bidding and play.

This is the only publication in this vicinity using the "Easy Lessons in Auction Bridge" by Wynne Ferguson, so it is suggested that you make arrangements to receive each copy. Many readers in the past have clipped the articles of Mr. Ferguson for their scrap books and future reference.

The series that will begin Oct. 21 has never appeared in publication form before, and therefore will be entirely new.

You'll Talk Too!

Is the whole town talking? The whole town is talking about "The Whole Town's Talking."

So—say the women in charge of the Women's Club play—so you'd better stay in town Friday night and see "The Whole Town's Talking" when it is presented at the High School Auditorium.

More than that. Those who have watched the rehearsal say that the committee is right in urging all the ladies to see the show.

All seats are reserved for the play, and may be secured from any of the three drug stores in Torrance.

"The Whole Town's Talking" was written by Anita Loos, whose book "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" has swept the country. It isn't an old play. It's a new one, and is now a current attraction in a London, England, playhouse.

Watts Joins L. A.; Loses Fire Truck To Big City Dept.

Southern California is laughing considerably at the expense of Watts, which recently voted to annex to Los Angeles. The story goes that prior to the election Watts fielded several thousand dollars in a fine new fire truck. After the election Los Angeles city fire officials came down and looked the new truck over, saying as they drove downtown, "Watts doesn't need a big expensive truck like this. This should be downtown where they have regular fires."

And so Watts lost the big truck and received in return—so the story goes—a piece of fire apparatus of the vintage of about 1900.

"Not so good," say residents of Watts—but it's too late to do anything now.

An interesting program is being prepared for the Section D mass meeting to be held in Torrance Friday, Oct. 29.

Don't forget to keep Thursday, Oct. 28, open for the chicken dinner that is to be served by the ladies of the Methodist Church.

DWELLING HOUSES LEAD

October Permits for Homes Alone Beat Entire September Total

FACTORY SPENDS \$10,000 Columbia Steel Builds Storage Building; New West Side Development

Building activity in Torrance continued with a rush during the second week of October.

Permits so far this month call for construction to cost \$44,000. To date October permits are for one factory building, one business block, and nine new houses.

The Columbia Steel Corporation is erecting a \$10,000 three-story galvanized iron building for the storage of patterns.

Permits taken out this week reveal the first substantial development in the newly improved Cedar-Roads avenue district. Sameel Audlin, Hollywood builder, is starting three five-room stucco dwellings in the 1500 block on Acacia street. Each will cost \$3250, according to the permits. These houses are being built for sale on contract. Mr. Audlin says he is prepared to build more.

It is authoritatively stated that several more builders are planning dwelling-house construction programs on the west side.

Other permits taken out this week are as follows: F. W. Crossland, 1330 Engracia avenue, four-room house, \$3000; C. J. Stanley, 2232 Arden avenue, four-room frame house, \$2650; Dick Meeuwig contractor; Gus Anderson, 1826 Engracia avenue, five-room stucco house, \$4650.

Permits taken out in September aggregated \$23,150. So far in October permits for dwelling houses alone exceed last month's total. The aggregate for dwelling house construction for October to date is \$29,900.

Legion Planning Formal Opening Armistice Day

New Clubhouse Now Completed; Officers to Be Named Oct. 26

Open house at the organization's clubhouse will be observed by the Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion on Armistice Day, Nov. 11. The attractive new home of the post is now completely furnished and the veterans wish the public to have an opportunity to inspect it on the anniversary of the war's close.

An opening for Legion and Auxiliary members will be held a few days prior to the public opening. At this time newly elected officers will be installed.

Nominations for officers of the post were made Tuesday night. The final election will take place Tuesday night, Oct. 26.

ASK FOR WIG-WAG The Los Angeles City Council has been petitioned by the P.-T. A. of the One Hundred and Eighty-fourth Street School for a safety device at the P. E. crossing at 182d street and Normandie avenue.

The crossing is just north of the entrance to Roosevelt Memorial Park.

GRASS FIRE The Torrance fire department put out a grass fire on the property in the rear of the Legion clubhouse Monday afternoon.

Observations

Reforms in Theory and Practice—The Castor Oil Cure—Our Sports Writers Fail—The Greatest News Stories of All Time

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

ALL reforms that look good on paper and appeal to man's urge toward complete democracy don't work as well as expected. In theory the initiative and referendum are splendid. In practice they may not eventually work out so well.

Next month voters of California will cast ballots on some 40 initiative measures. I wonder how many voters will understand every one of these important propositions.

Personally I am not sure above several of them. Some are sponsored by special interests. This does not necessarily make them bad propositions. But it is difficult to distinguish between the acceptable and the undesirable.

UNDER the initiative, measures which are defeated at the legislature may be placed on the ballot. It is a simple matter to secure enough signatures to force an initiative. It is possible that the ease with which signatures are secured brings to the ballot some measures which never in the world would be passed by a legislature.

At the same time highly organized and well financed opposition can sometimes easily kill a much-needed proposition. I am not sure that I would favor repeal of the people's right of initiative. But I am by no means certain that it is working as well as most of us thought it would.

WHEN Mussolini rose to power he crushed his enemies, the communists, by forcing them to drink copious quantities of castor oil. Result: their acquaintances laughed at them. Make a person ludicrous before his fellow men and you render him impotent. The castor oil cure in Italy was based on sound psychology. I can think of conditions in the United States that might be beneficially altered by its judicious use. Can't you?

LIKE Harry Carr I searched the newspapers for a story of Sunday's ball game, to find an adequate description of that tense drama when Grover Cleveland Alexander, Jack cascott pitcher, faced Tony Lazarr, eager young star, in the seventh inning with the bases full and a world's championship at stake.

I found none. Carr wonders where are the young Richard Harding Davises. Carr wonders what happened to those facile word weavers named Garland Rice, Damon Runyan and Westbrook Feagler. Those men are writers. Rice and Runyan have an especial flair for scintillating drama and sending it sizzling over the telegraph wires. They failed miserably last Sunday.

And what an opportunity they lost! Here was age pitted against youth for a great stake. Here was a man with his career behind him testing skill and brains against a lad whose life lay in the years to come. Such a moment is rare even in the drama-rearing run of baseball. Yet not one writer served up to the world a news story that even approached an adequate description of the situation.

I don't think that news writing has deteriorated. On the contrary I think it has improved. Sunday's failure of the writers is just an exception to the general quality of copy wired by our best sports writers.

AND speaking of spontaneous news reporting, it might interest you to know about the two news stories that hang in many newspaper offices of the country as samples of the best news writing extant.

One is Will Irwin's story of the San Francisco fire. The other is the story that Floyd Gibbons cabled from Ireland when the Lusitania was sunk.

When San Francisco was roaring in flames after the earthquake shocks Irwin was a reporter on a Bay City paper and correspondent for the Associated Press. He was the first man to get a clear wire to the outside world. Sitting in a dingy telegraph office before a dilapidated typewriter, he dashed off a masterpiece of descriptive news copy that has never been excelled. There probably has been a better press produced, but never spontaneously and without editing and rewriting. That story made Irwin. In a day he ceased being a plain reporter and became a writer of national prominence.

WHEN the war broke out Gibbons was a police reporter for the Chicago Tribune. He wanted to go to France as a correspondent. His paper did not send him because he didn't have enough experience. So he obtained credentials and went over as a free lance. Fortunately—for him—he booked passage on the Lusitania. When the big liner was submerged he was in the first boatload of men ashore.

On the dock at Queenstown he wrote his story for the cables. It was a tremendous piece of the disaster to reach America. It was the first eye-witness account of a major news event that has ever graced white paper. And it was written on inspiration, without preparation and without revision.

That story made Gibbons. The Tribune put him on regularly. He went to the front to secure impressions for a personal account of how a man feels under intense fire. In addition to the impressions he received a machine-gun bullet in the eye and lost the organ.

SEEK PART OF BOND ISSUE

New Southwest Organization Boosts \$8,000,000 Measure for County Plan

PLAN PARKS NEAR HERE Officers Believe Substantial Sum Will Be Spent in This Section

That a considerable sum of the \$8,000,000 bond issue proposed for county parks will be expended in development in this section appears more than likely if the proposal carries at the November election.

The Southwest Organization, which met in Torrance last Friday night, is backing the bond issue and has received unofficial assurances that if the measure is carried the southwestern part of the county will receive its share of the contemplated development.

A number of parks for this district have been tentatively planned by the Regional Planning Commission. Three of these are near Torrance. One is slated for development at Nigger Slough, where an artificial lake is proposed. Another is scheduled for development north of this city on the other side of Riverside boulevard, and a third is proposed as a marine and beach park between Redondo Beach and the Palos Verdes Estates.

It is not stated whether these parks will be developed from funds raised by the bond issues, but officers of the Southwest Organization are confident that a sizable portion of the proposed sum will be used on some of this work.

Cities Co-operate The Southern California spirit was reflected in the endorsement by representatives from 30 towns and cities in Los Angeles County of the \$8,000,000 regional park bond issue at a meeting held in Burbank last Saturday.

The Association of City Planners, a prominent civic leader in all Southern California towns and cities, is this week making active preparations to co-operate with the campaign committee for the park bond issue, which was unanimously endorsed by the following towns and communities at the Burbank meeting: Long Beach, Burbank, Venice, Southgate, Los Angeles, Van Nuys, Glendale, Whittier, South Pasadena, Pomona, Santa Monica, Montebello, Alhambra, Florence, Claremont, Palos Verdes, Sierra Madre, Glendora, Monterey Park, San Fernando, Compton, El Monte, Inglewood, Lomita, West Hollywood, Monrovia, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Lankershim, and Huntington Park.

Interest County-Wide Every section of Los Angeles County is vitally interested in this bond issue, as its success will be of equal benefit to all parts of the county. No particular district is to be favored.

The idea back of the bond issue, and one which has been worked on for several years by the Regional Planning Commission, in conjunction with numerous civic organizations and public-spirited citizens, is to provide the county with a special fund which may be used as needed to meet the various communities half-way in the establishment of parks.

It is proposed that any community which is desirous of establishing a park or recreation center may, after having raised one-half the necessary money, by assessment, subscription, donation or otherwise, call upon the county to supply the remaining half. Advocates of parks, of which we have many in Southern California, say that the plan will greatly encourage new recreation centers all over the county.

Cost Insignificant One and one-third cents per \$100 (Continued on Page Ten)

BILL THE BARBER SAYS IN THE MORNING, THE AVERAGE WOMAN LOOKS LIKE THE AVERAGE MAN FEELS.